

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-01 AGR-10 SWF-01

TRSE-00 IO-10 SS-15 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

RSC-01 DODE-00 HEW-06 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 /099 R

DRAFTED BY DRAFTED:ARA/CEN:PHWACKERBARTH

APPROVED BY ARA/CEN:LKILDAY

PHA/FDRC:RMCCCLURE

EUR/NE:CLFLOYD

AID/PHA/FDRC:RHARRIS(INFO)

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P R 222126Z OCT 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

UNCLAS STATE 232476

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL HO

SUBJECT: DISASTER RELIEF: HONDURAS

REF: A. LONDON 12687 B. LONDON 13602

SUGGEST YOU DRAW ON FOLLOWING FOR YOUR REPORT TO
OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY'S DISASTER UNIT:

1. HONDURAS' CHIEF OF STATE LOPEZ REQUESTED U.S.
ASSISTANCE ON SEPTEMBER 19. THE U.S. AMBASSADOR EXERCISED
HIS DISASTER RELIEF AUTHORITY ON SEPTEMBER 19 AND USED HIS
\$25,000 DISASTER CONTINGENCY FUND FOR LOCAL PURCHASES
AND FOR CASH GRANTS TO LOCAL AND U.S. VOLUNTARY AGENCIES
FOR RELIEF OPERATIONS. - --

2. AT THE REQUEST OF THE AMBASSADOR THE FOREIGN
DISASTER RELIEF COORDINATOR (FDRC) DISPATCHED TWO U.S.
MILITARY DISASTER ASSISTANCE SURVEY TEAMS FROM PANAMA
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TO DETERMINE CRITICAL NEEDS AND INITIATE RESCUE OPER-

ATIONS. SUBSEQUENTLY FOUR HELICOPTERS, TWO C-130'S AND FOUR 16 FOOT BOATS WITH OUTBOARD MOTORS WERE PROVIDED AT THE REQUEST OF FDRC FOR RESCUE AND RELIEF MISSIONS AS WELL AS THREE WATER PURIFICATION UNITS AND NECESSARY SUPPORT EQUIPMENT. ALL OF THESE WERE SENT FROM THE U.S. SOUTHERN DEFENSE COMMAND IN THE CANAL ZONE.

THESE AIRCRAFT WERE JOINED BY THE BRITISH HELICOPTERS DISPATCHED FROM BELIZE.

3. LATER AS SPECIFIC NEEDS WERE DETERMINED AID PROVIDED 4,324 BLANKETS, 2,000 BED SHEETS, 1,000 SANDBAGS, VARIOUS WATER CONTAINERS INCLUDING LISTER BAGS, FIVE GALLON WATER CONTAINERS AND POLYBAGS, 30 PORTABLE KITCHENS, INSECTICIDES (500 GALLONS), JP-4 FUEL, RADIOS, BABY FOOD (210,000 JARS), BABY FORMULA (280,000 FEEDINGS) AND APPROPRIATE MEDICAL ITEMS.

4. MORE THAN 2,000,000 POUNDS OF PL 480 COMMODITIES WERE IN STOCK IN HONDURAS AND IN POSSESSION OF CARE AND CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES AT THE TIME THE HURRICANE STRUCK. THESE STOCKS WERE RELEASED FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION AND WERE AUGMENTED BY ADDITIONAL PL 480 FOOD FROM GUATEMALA AND THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES.

5. AS OF OCTOBER 15, USG ASSISTANCE HAD EXCEEDED \$1,600,000, AND U.S. BOATS AND HELICOPTERS, WORKING ALONG SIDE THE BRITISH HELICOPTERS HAD DISTRIBUTED MORE THAN 700,000 LBS. OF RELIEF SUPPLIES AND RESCUED HUNDREDS OF PERSONS.

6. IN ADDITION TO SUPERVISING THE RELIEF EFFORT IN HONDURAS FDRC COORDINATED PRIVATE AGENCIES' AND INDIVIDUALS' EFFORTS IN THE UNITED STATES. ELEVEN AIR NATIONAL GUARD AND AIR FORCE RESERVE UNITS FLEW 23 MISSIONS FROM THE CONTINENTAL U.S. AND PUERTO RICO TRANSPORTING MORE THAN 450,000 LBS. OF PRIORITY RELIEF SUPPLIES (HIGH PROTEIN FOODSTUFFS AND NEEDED MEDICINES.) A COORDINATION CENTER FOR SURFACE SHIPMENT OF OTHER IT ITEMS DONATED BY PRIVATE GROUPS AROUND THE COUNTRY UNCLASSIFIED

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WAS SET UP IN NEW ORLEANS WHERE THEY WERE LOADED ON A SPACE AVAILABLE BASIS ON VESSELS DONATED BY U.S. COMPANIES SUCH AS UNITED BRANDS, ROSARIO RESOURCES AND CASTLE & COOK (STANDARD FRUIT.) CONTRIBUTIONS BY U.S.--BASED VOLUNTARY AGENCIES HAD EXCEEDED \$5,000,000 BY OCTOBER 15.

7. IN ADDITION TO THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN CONTRI-

BUTIONS, 35 OTHER COUNTRIES AND THE UNITED NATIONS AND ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES HAVE CONTRIBUTED MORE THAN \$3,500,000.

8. ON SEPTEMBER 28 HERMAN KLEINE, DEPUTY U.S. COORDINATOR FOR THE ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS AND RUSSELL MCCLURE, U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER RELIEF COORDINATOR WENT TO HONDURAS AS PRESIDENT FORD'S PERSONAL EMISSAR-IES TO DETERMINE IMMEDIATE RELIEF REQUIREMENTS AND TO SURVEY LONGER TERM RECOVERY AND REHABILITATION NEEDS. ON OCTOBER 7 THEY RECOMMENDED IN THEIR REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT CONTINUED U.S. SUPPORT IN THE POST HURRICANE EMERGENCY PHASE. A STUDY OF POSSIBLE AVENUES OF U.S. PARTICIPATION, TOGETHER WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, IN THE POST EMERGENCY PHASE OF REBUILDING THE ECONOMY OF THE AFFECTED AREA-THE NORTH COAST OF HONDURAS-IS CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISASTER RELIEF, FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE232476
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ARA/CEN:PHWACKERBARTH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740301-0564
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741026/aaaaavrg.tel
Line Count: 132
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. LONDON 12687 B. LONDON 13602
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 NOV 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 NOV 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <12-Nov-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISASTER RELIEF: HONDURAS
TAGS: SWEL, HO
To: LONDON
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005